

# CSP Subcommittee Update

USDA-NRCS

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## 2008 CSP Payments

On October 29, 2007, Acting Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner announced that approximately \$257 million in CSP payments were being readied by NRCS. The Fiscal Year 2008 CSP payments are currently being processed and must be completed by February 1, 2008. These payments are for stewardship and existing practice payments, and all benchmark enhancements. New enhancements that the producer has never completed before on their operation will be paid upon completion.

Unlike Fiscal Year 2007 when payments were capped due to the Continuing Resolution Limit (CRL), Fiscal Year 2008 payments are not limited by additional caps. Producers were given the option to receive their payment before to January 1, 2008 or after January 1, 2008.

<i>TABLE 1</i>	Number of Contracts by Year of Signup	Obligations (\$) (2004-2008)
2004 CSP Contracts	132	\$6,054,093
2005 CSP Contracts	561	\$23,455,668
2006 CSP Contracts	15	\$544,708
Total CSP Contracts in Minnesota	708	\$30,054,469

Minnesota has received a total obligation of approximately \$8.63 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2008 payments on contracts approved during FY 2004, 2005, and 2006. Table 1 shows the number of active contracts by year of signup and the total obligation by year of signup from Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2008.

In the news release that announced the Fiscal Year 2008 payments, it was also stated that NRCS anticipates the next CSP signup in early 2008 in the 51 eligible water-

sheds announced in September 2006. For Minnesota, this includes the Thief Watershed in northwest Minnesota.

To find the most up-to-date information CSP if and when a Fiscal Year 2008 signup is announced, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/) and [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html).

If, and when, a CSP signup is announcement, we will schedule a meeting of the CSP Subcommittee of the State Technical Committee.

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### *Special points of interest:*

- At this time, a 2008 signup has not been announced by the Secretary.
- NRCS is in the process of making 2008 CSP payments to participants.

For questions regarding CSP or the CSP Subcommittee of the Minnesota NRCS Technical Committee, contact:

Leah M Duzy

Agricultural Economist

375 Jackson Street

Suite 600

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

651-602-7867

[leah.duzy@mn.usda.gov](mailto:leah.duzy@mn.usda.gov)

## Expiring CSP Contracts

CSP contracts vary in length from five to ten years depending upon level of participation and the desires of the participant. For Tier I contracts that were signed in Fiscal Year 2004, the Fiscal Year 2008 payment from CSP will be their last. In Minnesota, approximately 87 Tier I contracts will expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2008. The participants in the original signup in Fiscal Year 2004 were part of the pilot program in the Blue Earth Watershed. In Fiscal Year 2009, the number of expiring CSP contract will increase substantially, with approximately 284 Tier I contracts expiring at the end of the fiscal year. These contracts were part of the Fiscal Year 2006 signup held in six Minnesota watersheds, including the Blue Earth, Redwood, Root, Sauk, Redeye, and Red Lake. The majority of Tier II and Tier III contracts do not expire until Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014, depending upon year of signup.